

PATENT

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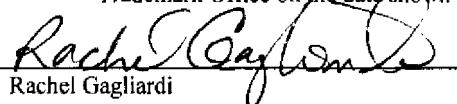
Applicant: ALAN SHLUZAS et al. Confirmation No.: 3377  
Serial No.: 10/658,736 Examiner: Nicholas W. Woodall  
Filed: SEPTEMBER 9, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3733  
Docket No.: 1291.1138101 Customer No.: 28075  
Title: METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR TREATING THE SPINE  
THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE

**AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR §1.111**  
**RESPONSE**

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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I hereby certify that this paper(s) is being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and  
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Rachel Gagliardi

2/19/08  
Date

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action of the Examiner mailed November 19, 2007, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending February 19, 2008. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.